



Introduction to the CBD and the participation of the stakeholders

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Training Session on engaging and improving capacity-building for civil society in view of UN CBD COP17/ 22-23 April 2026



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Introduction to the CBD

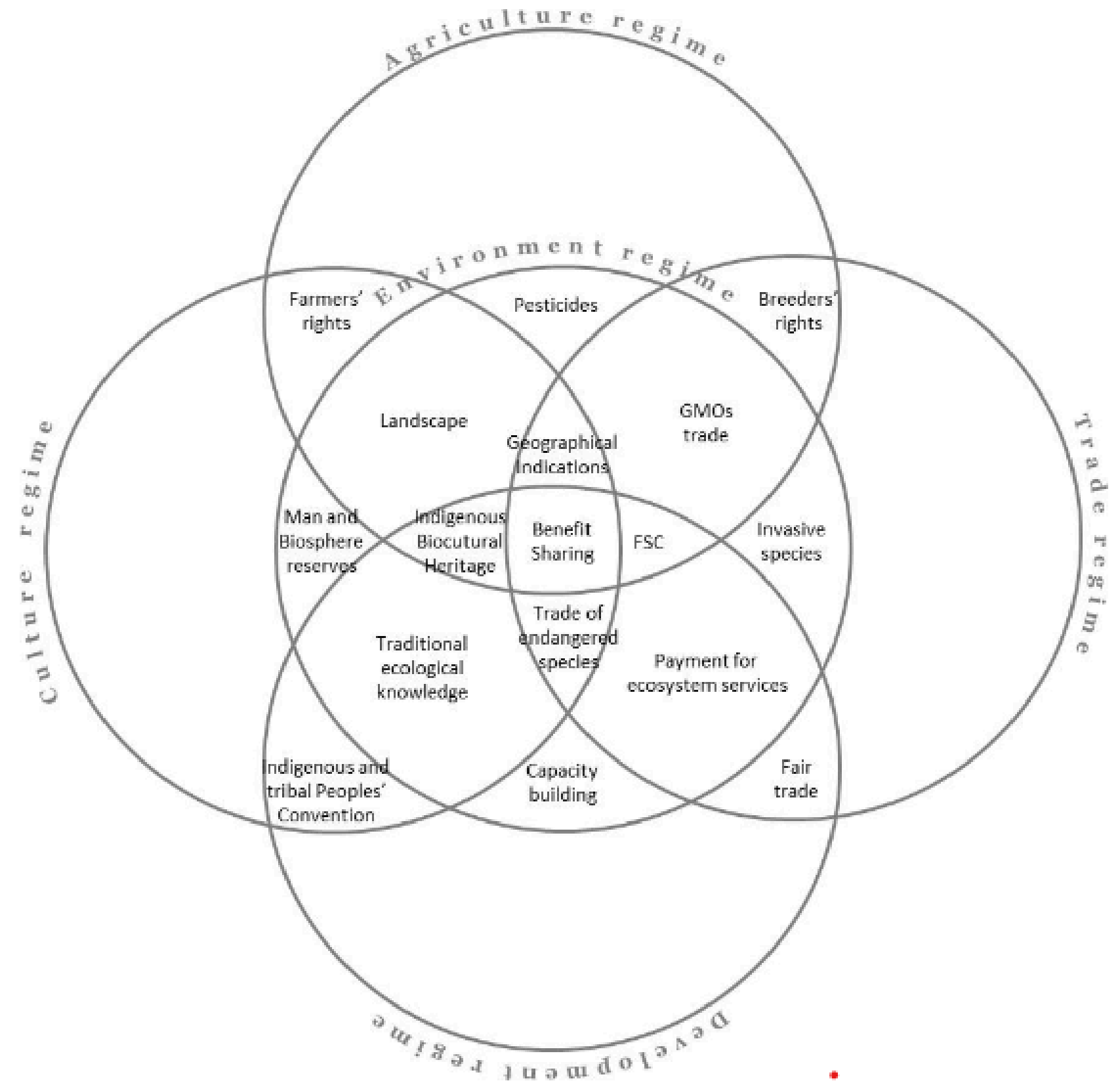


Photo IISD, 2024

International biodiversity diplomacy: a definition

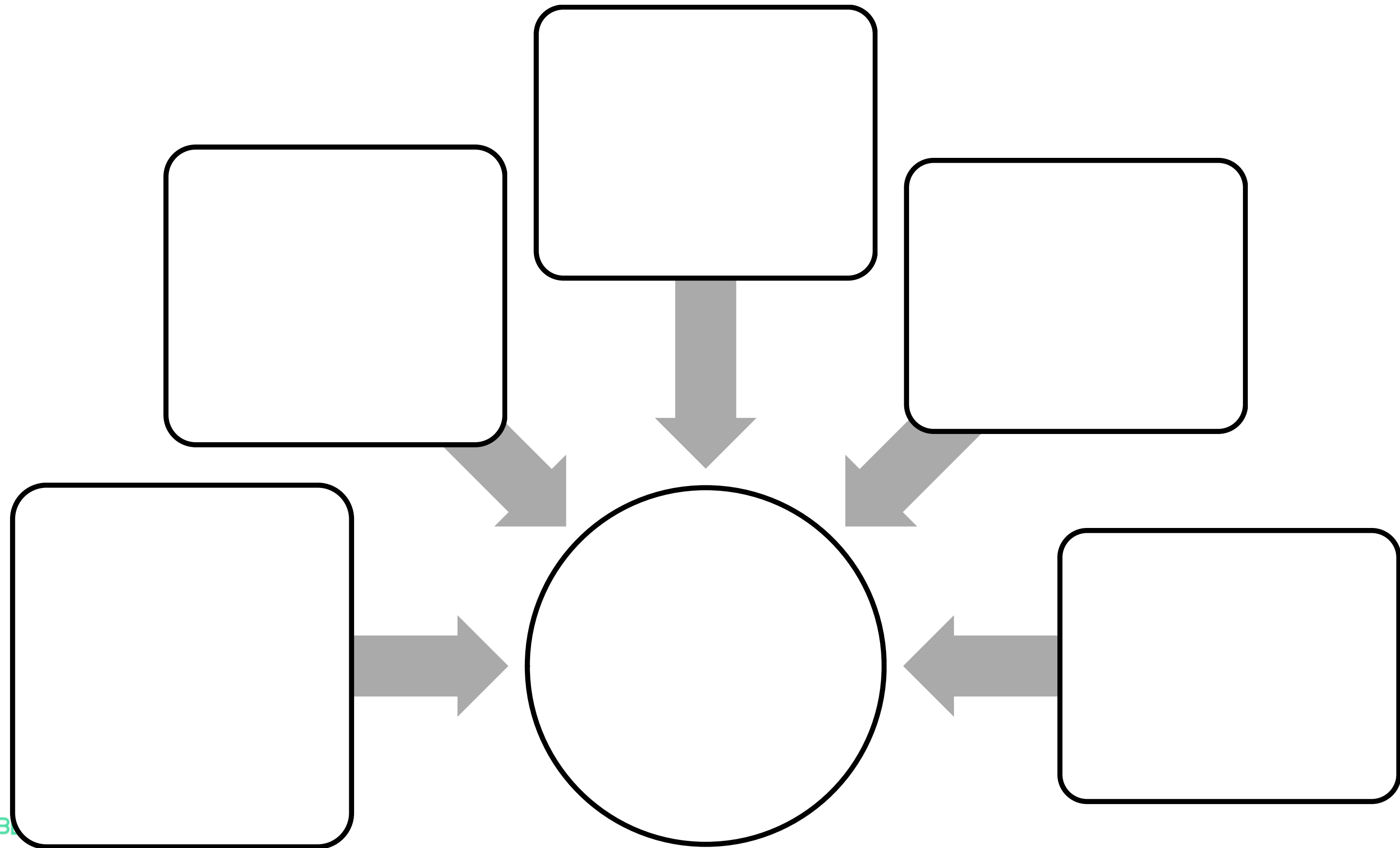
International biodiversity diplomacy refers to the collective body of negotiations, multilateral instruments, and agreements between states and other stakeholders (international organizations, civil society, and the private sector) aimed at conserving global biological diversity, sustainably managing its components, and equitably sharing the associated benefits. It falls within the broader framework of environmental diplomacy.

<https://www.diplomacy.edu/topics/biodiversity-diplomacy/>



Morin, Jean-Frederic and Louafi, Selim and Orsini, Amandine J. and Oubenal, Mohamed, Boundary Organizations in Regime Complexes: A Social Network Profile of IPBES (October 12, 2017).

A diplomacy shaped by a variety of influences



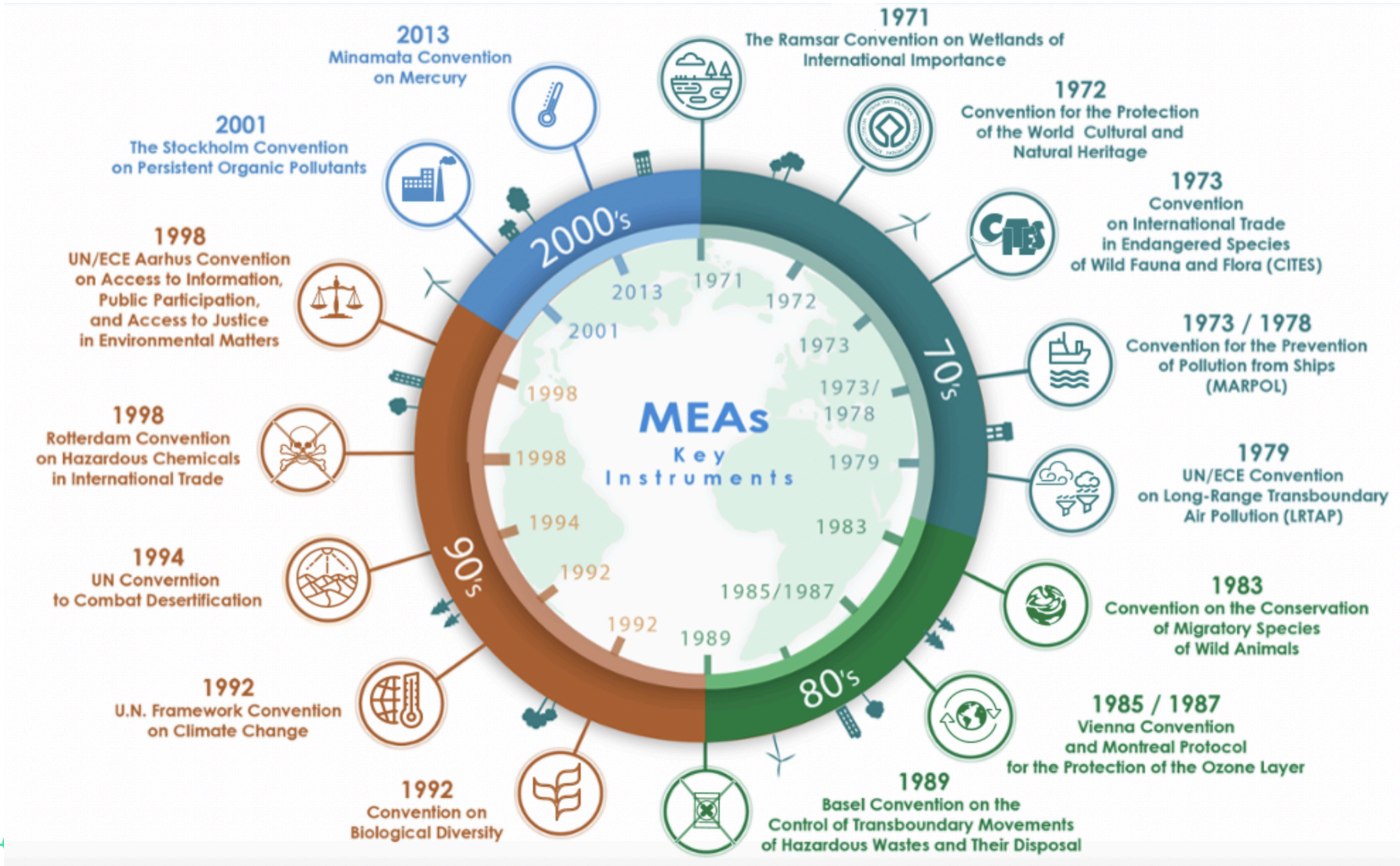
From Resource Management to the Protection of Living Organisms: The Turning Point of the Stockholm Conference (1972)

- Meadows report « The Limits to Growth »
- A paradigm shift: growing awareness of the vulnerability of natural systems on a global scale, recognition of the environment as a global issue as such
- Institutionalization of environmental governance: establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Recognition of the role of science and civil society: active participation of scientists in the formulation of the Stockholm Principles and Objectives.

1992 Rio Conference: Biodiversity Becomes a Stand-Alone Diplomatic Issue

- New conceptual framework: sustainable development (Brundtland, 1987).
- Creation of three separate international conventions:
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
 - Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
 - Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The 3 Rio Conventions among others...



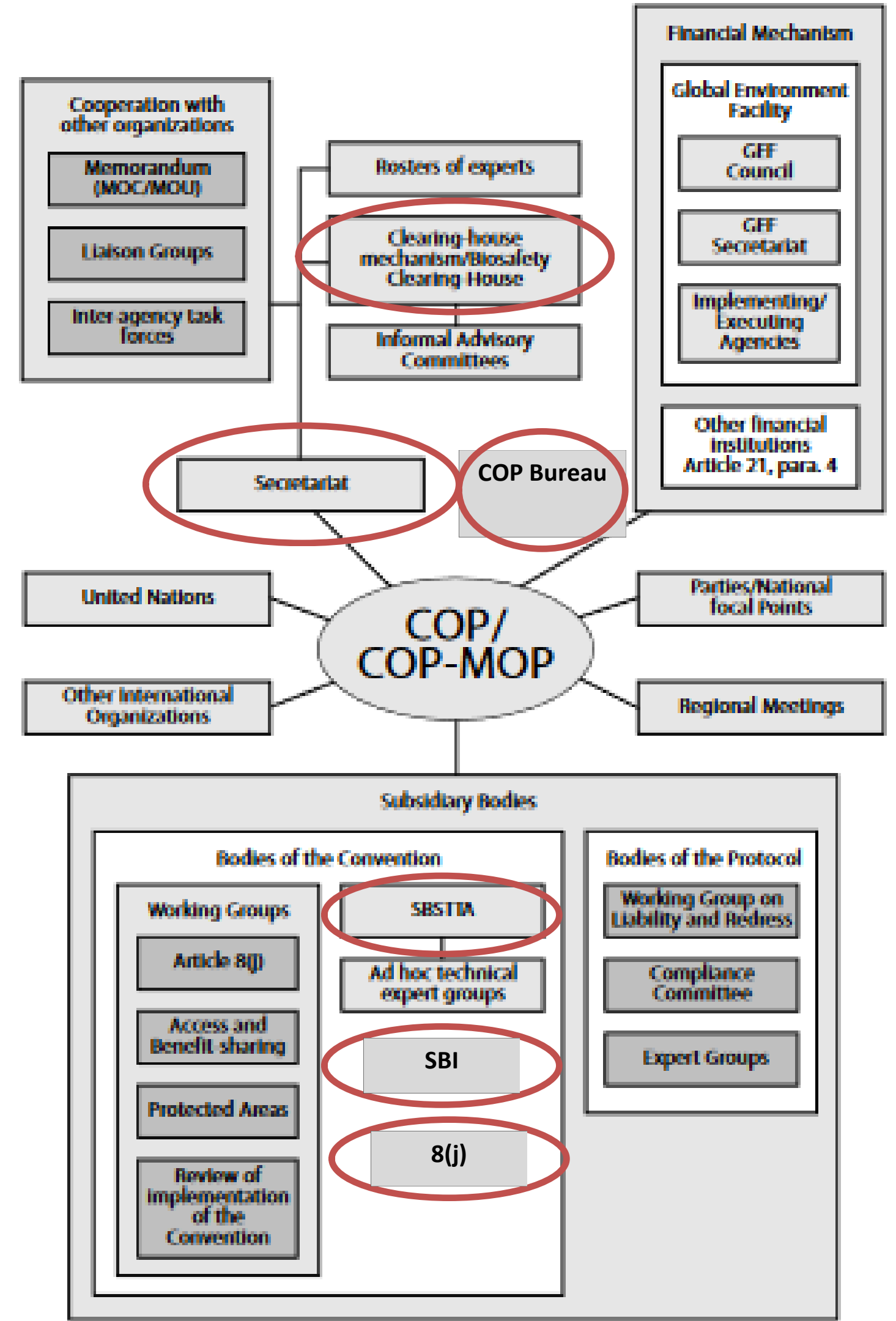
The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): A Cornerstone of International Biodiversity Diplomacy



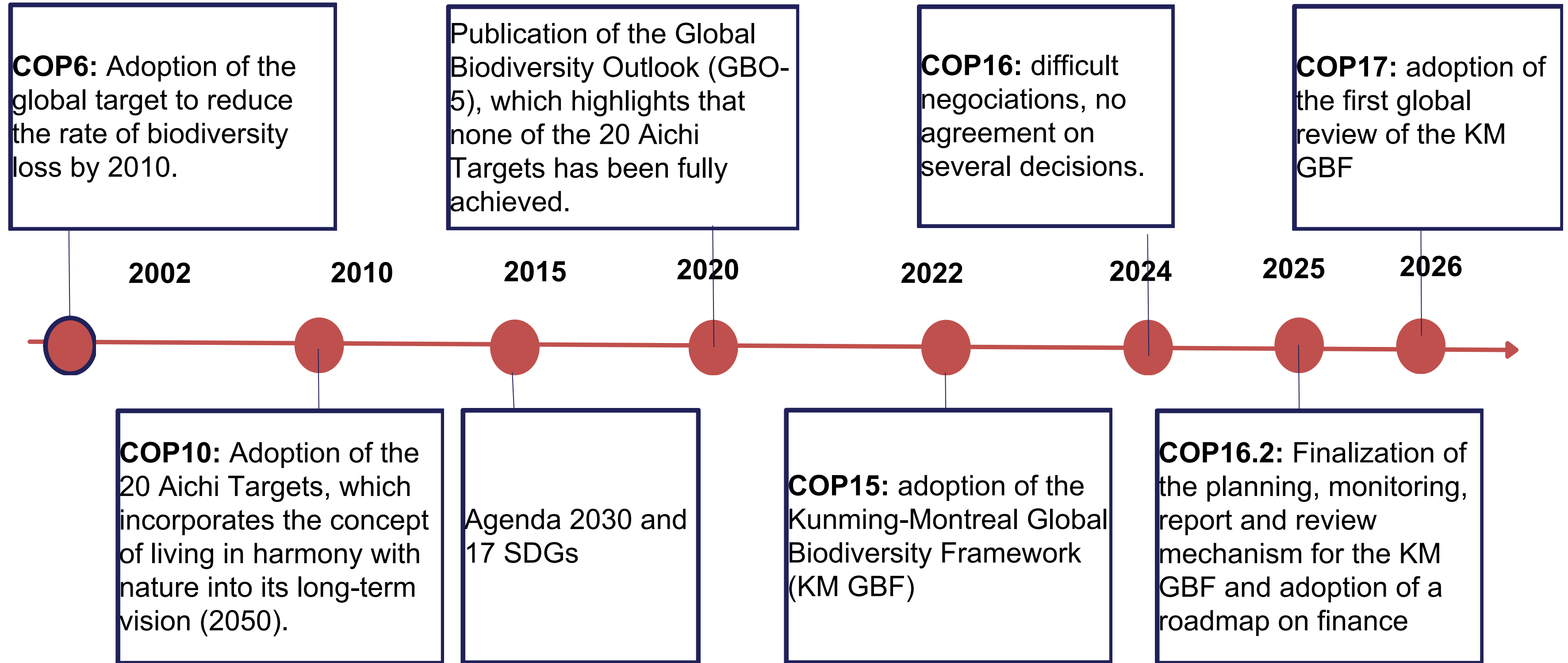
- <https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf>
- 1992 : adoption. 1993 : entry into force. 1994 : COP1 in the Bahamas.
- Three founding objectives:
 - The conservation of biological diversity;
 - The sustainable use of its components;
 - The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.
- Nearly universal membership: 196 parties (195 states and the EU), with the notable absence of the United States and the Holy See.

CBD – Institutional organization

- CBD
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing
 - supplementary agreement to the CBD
 - international agreement which aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way
 - Adoption 2010. Entry into force in 2014
 - 142 Parties
- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
 - supplementary agreement to the CBD
 - international agreement which aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health.
 - Adoption 2000. Entry into force 2003.
 - 173 Parties



Timeline of International Commitments on Biodiversity



The Unique Nature of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

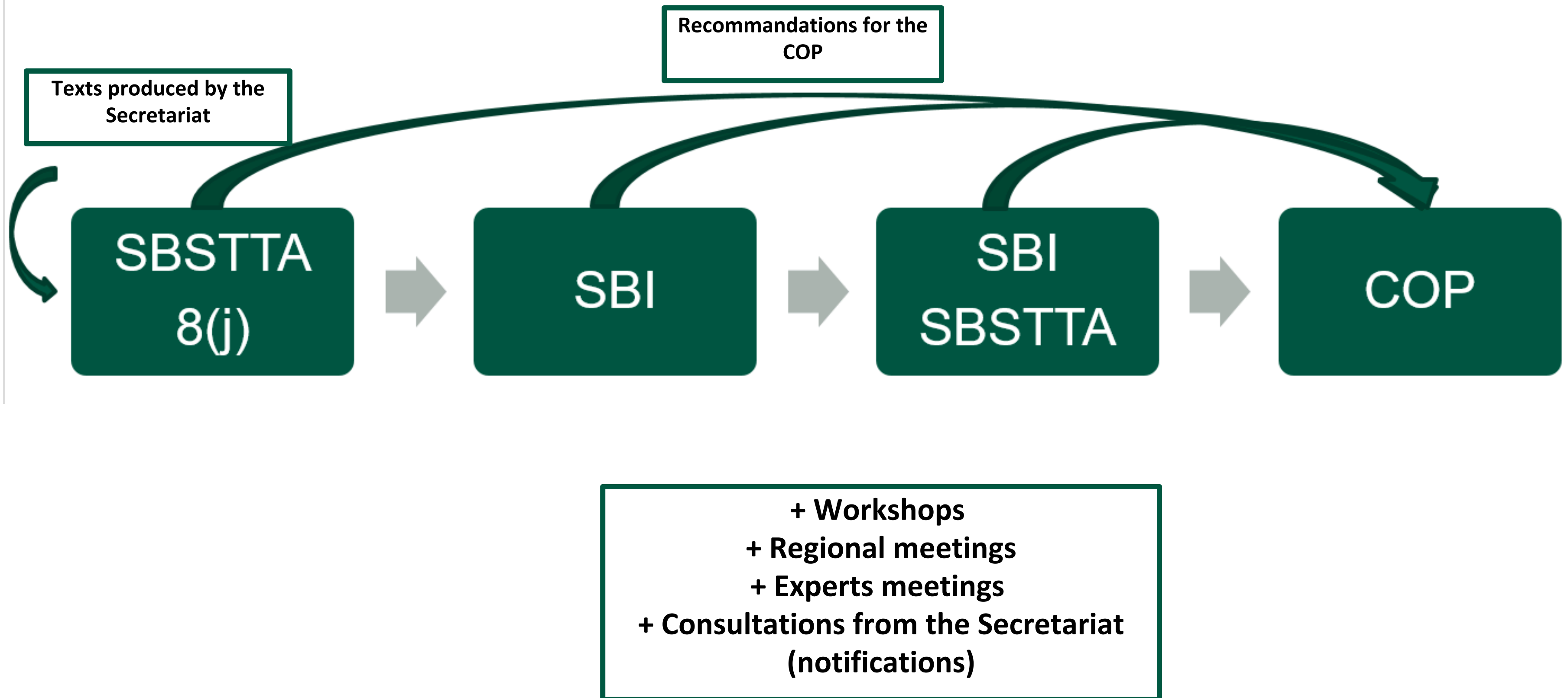
- <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>
- A clear strategic framework with measurable objectives:
 - 4 overarching goals by 2050;
 - 23 operational targets by 2030;
- Other sections: Background, Purpose, Considerations (rights, value systems, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, national circumstances, collective effort, human rights-based approach, objectives of the CBD, science and innovation, intergenerational equity, education, synergies, health...), Relationship with 2030 Agenda, Theory of Change.
- 2050 Vision: *"by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people"*.
- 2030 Mission: *"To take urgent action to **halt and reverse biodiversity** loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the **benefit of people and planet** by **conserving and sustainably using** biodiversity and by **ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits** from the use of genetic resources, while providing the **necessary means of implementation**"*.

The Unique Nature of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework



- A mechanism for planning, monitoring, reporting, and review (PMRR):
 - National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);
 - A standardized monitoring framework with common indicators;
 - Harmonized national reports to enhance comparability;
 - Conducting a global review of implementation.
- Means of implementation:
 - Biodiversity financing from all sources of \$200 billion per year by 2030, including \$30 billion per year to support developing countries;
 - Reduction or reform of incentives and subsidies harmful to biodiversity by \$500 billion per year by 2030;
 - Agreement on DSI (digital sequence information);
 - Strategic frameworks for capacity building and technical and scientific cooperation.
- Central recognition of the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in biodiversity conservation
- Gender action plan

The path to negotiations



Positions and regional groups in the CBD negotiations

Official UN regional groups



Political groups

- European Union
- JUSCANZ: Japan – Canada – New Zealand – Australia – Switzerland – Norway – UK
- GRULAC (Group of Latin American and Caribbean States)
- SIDS (Small Island Developing States)
- BRICS: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa...
- Megadiverse countries: Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Brazil, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Iran, China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Mexico...
- ASEAN
- G77 and China

Some COP moments...



Stakeholders participation

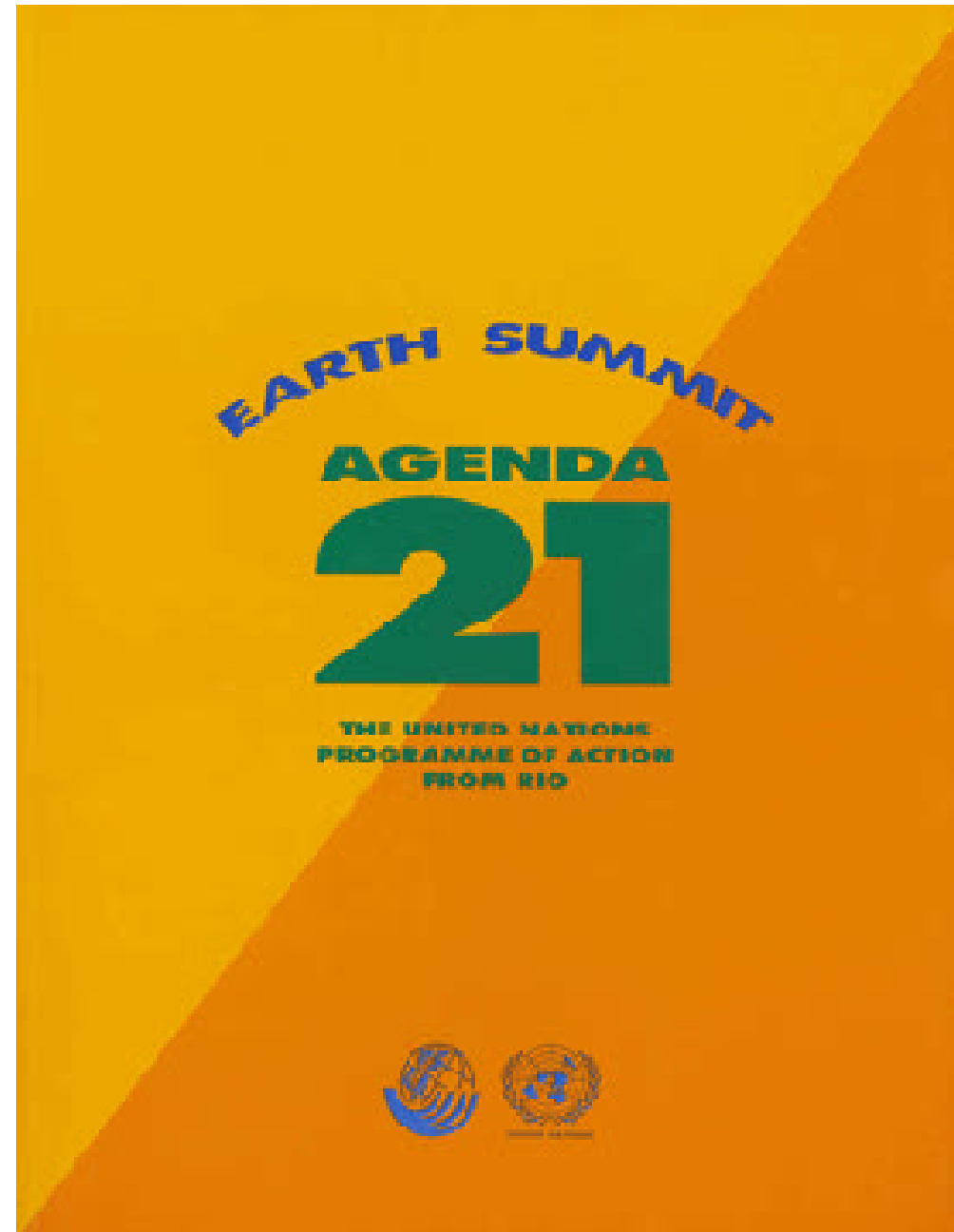


Photo IISD, 2024

Stakeholders, Major groups ?

- Rio 1992 recognized that achieving sustainable development would require the **active participation of all sectors of society and all types of people**.
 - Agenda 21, adopted at the Rio Conference, recognized **nine core constituencies of society** through which broad participation of as many people as possible would be encouraged in UN activities related to sustainable development. These sectors are officially referred to as **“Major Groups”**.
 - The list of recognized stakeholders and “major groups” continues to grow today. They are structured through shared platform and participating to almost all the UN processes.

Stakeholders, Major groups ?



AGENDA 21

SECTION III. STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

23. Preamble 23.1 - 23.4

24. **Global action for women** towards sustainable and equitable development 24.1 - 24.12

25. **Children and youth** in sustainable development 25.1 - 25.17

26. Recognizing and strengthening the role of **indigenous people and their communities** 26.1 - 26.9

27. Strengthening the role of **non-governmental organizations**: partners for sustainable development 27.1 - 27.13

28. **Local authorities'** initiatives in support of Agenda 21 28.1 - 28.7

29. Strengthening the role of **workers and their trade unions** 29.1 - 29.14

30. Strengthening the role of **business and industry** 30.1 - 30.30

31. **Scientific and technological community** 31.1 - 31.12

32. Strengthening the role of **farmers** 32.1 - 32.14

Outline of Agenda 21 official document

Major groups in the CBD

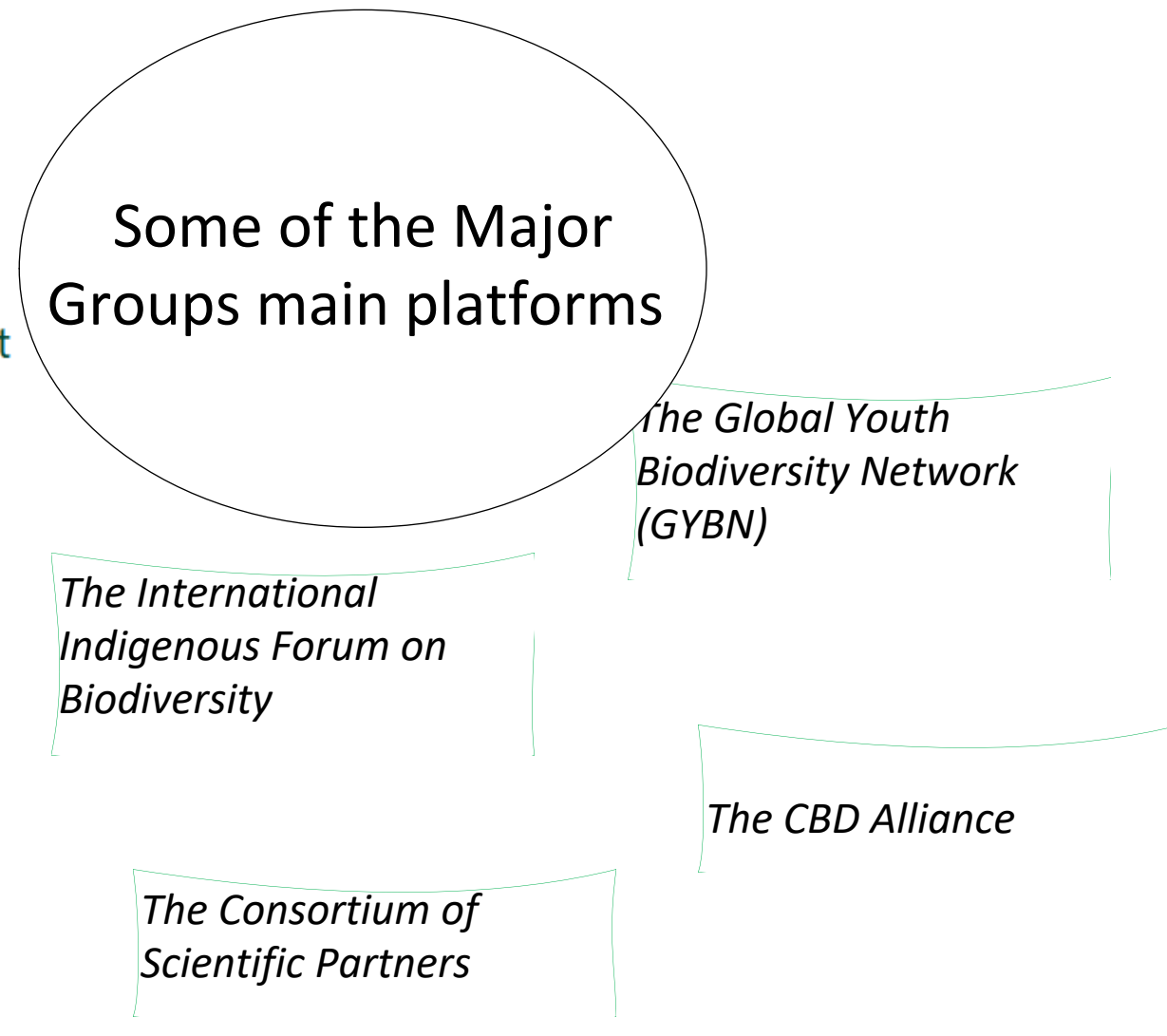
Within the CBD, major groups have gradually been recognised and their involvement taken into account over the years.

The CBD does, however, have one distinctive feature: it recognised the role of non-state actors (and in particular indigenous peoples and local communities) in the text of the Convention, through Article 8(j)!

Major Groups

For implementation of the Convention, the involvement of major stakeholders is imperative and therefore encouraged and supported by the Secretariat. The list below provides links to initiatives for a number of different groups:

- [Business](#)
- [Local Authorities](#)
- [Parliamentarians](#)
- [Universities and the Scientific Community](#)
- [Children & Youth](#)
- [Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\)](#)



CBD Institutional Arrangements



Bodies established by the text of the convention :

Article 23
Conference of Parties (COP)

Article 25
Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)

Bodies established by COP Decisions :

Subsidiary Body on implementation (SBI)

Subsidiary Body on on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (SB8j)

+ Working groups

DEC XII/26

DEC XVI/5

CBD institutional arrangements



Rule of Procedure COP	Modus Operandi SBSTTA	Modus Operandi SBI	Modus Operandi SB8(j)
Rule 6 and 7 about « Observers » participation			
	Para H. Ad Hoc expert should build on existing knowledge including those of the <i>NGOs, Scientific</i>	Para C.4. Ad Hoc experts group could include expert from <i>“organizations”</i>	Still in development... but <i>“The need for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities”</i> +
	Para I. Contribution of <i>NGOs</i>		<i>“selection of IPLCs</i>

CBD institutional arrangements

You are part of
the process

OBSERVERS

Rule 6

1. The Secretariat shall notify the United Nations, its specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency as well as any State not Party to the Convention of meetings of the Conference of the Parties so that they may be represented as observers.
2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any meeting unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

Rule 7

1. The Secretariat shall notify any body or agency, whether governmental or non-governmental, qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented, of meetings of the Conference of the Parties so that they may be represented as observers unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.
2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any meeting in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.



Terms of Reference – National Focal Points of the CBD¹

Recognizing that Parties determine the specific responsibilities of their national focal points, *notes* that the primary function of national focal points is to act as liaisons with the Secretariat on behalf of their Parties and in so doing, they are responsible for:

- (a) Receiving and disseminating information related to the Convention;
- (b) Ensuring that Parties are represented at meetings under the Convention;
- (c) Identifying experts to participate in ad hoc technical expert groups, assessment processes and other processes under the Convention;
- (d) Responding to other requests for input by Parties from the Conference of the Parties and the Secretariat;
- (e) Collaborating with national focal points in other countries to facilitate implementation of the Convention;
- (f) Monitoring, promoting and/or facilitating national implementation of the Convention;

Dec VIII/5

Contact your NFP !

Participating to consultations and to the global review



Clearing-House national focal points

Online discussions of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms

Subject(s): Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Action required by 2025-11-19

2025-10-20



English

2025-132 (SCBD/IMS/AN/JEC/AC/92500)

Notification to: CBD national focal points, Cartagena Protocol focal points, ABS focal points, SBSTTA focal points, CHM focal points, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and relevant organizations

Commitments from actors other than national Governments towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Subject(s): Identification, Monitoring and Indicators, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP), National Reports

Action required by 2026-02-28

2025-10-19



English

2025-131 (SCBD/IMS/AN/CR/92465)

Notification to: CBD national focal points, Cartagena Protocol focal points, ABS focal points, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations

Invitation to submit relevant information on cooperation with conventions and international organizations

Check the notifications !

Thank you!

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